

Message Text

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EYES ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT:US/EC DISCUSSION ON AGRICULTURE IN THE MTN

REF: MTN GENEVA 7803

FOR EC BRUSSELS: EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR GREENWALD

FOR OECD PARIS: EYES ONLY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

1. A CABLE IS BEING PREPARED IN WASHINGTON IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL. THE INSTRUCTIONS IT CONTAINS, HOWEVER, HAVE ALREADY BEEN PASSED TO WALKER IN GENEVA BY TELEPHONE WHO, PRESUMABLY, IS CONTINUING TO WORK WITH EC OFFICIALS THERE TO GET AS MUCH AGREEMENT AS POSSIBLE ON AGRICULTURAL IMPASSE BEFORE DENT-LARDINOIS-SOAMES MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON FRIDAY. OUR HOPE WOULD BE TO SETTLE ALL OUTSTANDING ISSUES ALONG LINES SUGGESTED IN REFTEL BEFORE THE BRUSSELS MEETING WITH PROBABLE EXCEPTION OF QUESTION OF JOINT
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MEETINGS.

2. STATE, STR, AND USDA ARE AGREED ON ACCEPTING SOLUTION TO "INCORPORATE INTO" ISSUE PROPOSED IN PARAGRAPH (B) OF REFTEL. THESE AGENCIES ALSO PREPARED ACCEPT FOUR STEP PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING OTHER PRODUCTS. INSTRUCTIONS ARE

TO CONTINUE TO PRESS EC TO MEET US ON LETTING QR BILATERALS ON MEAT, DAIRY, AND GRAINS BE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SUBGROUPS ALONG LINES OF WALKER'S PROPOSAL WHICH LUYTEN AGREED TO RECONSIDER. WE HOPEFUL THAT EC CAN ACCEPT FORMULATION WHICH RESOLVES THIS LATTER ISSUE. NOTE THAT WALKER PROPOSAL IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF REFTEL WAS INTENDED TO RELATE ONLY TO QRS.

3. ALTHOUGH STATE AND STR WERE WILLING TO GO WITH OPTION FOUR IN REFTEL REGARDING JOINT MEETINGS (I.E., PAPER IT OVER FOR NOW), USDA INSISTED THAT WE CONTINUE PRESS FOR JOINT MEETINGS PRIOR TO ANY TNC DISCUSSION. BUTZ HAS PERSONALLY APPROVED THIS POSITION. HOWEVER, WE SUSPECT USDA MAY BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT LANGUAGE WHICH AVOIDS USE OF THE WORD "JOINT" AND WHICH MAKES REFERENCE TO TNC AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT VIOLATE THE PRINCIPLE UNDERLYING CONCEPT OF JOINT MEETINGS BY ESTABLISHING EXCLUSIVITY OF AGRICULTURE GROUP. SECRETARY BUTZ HAS WRITTEN LETTER TO DENT REINFORCING HIS VIEW THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF "JOINT MEETINGS" IS ESSENTIAL. BOTH DENT AND BUTZ BELIEVE THEY ARE COMMITTED TO THE APAC ON THIS ISSUE AND THEY WILL BE HIGHLY RELUCTANT TO DEPART TOO FAR WITHOUT AGREED LANGUAGE WHICH PROTECTS THEIR POSITION HERE VIS-A-VIS THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY.

4. IF, AS IS LIKELY, THE JOINT MEETING ISSUE BECOMES THE MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK AT THE DENT-EC MEETING, OUR HOPE IS THAT THIS WILL NOT LEAD TO UNRAVELLING ON OTHER POINTS WHICH ARE AGREED OR WHERE AGREEMENT IS CLOSE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EC RECOGNIZE THAT ISSUE OF JOINT MEETINGS IS OF MAJOR POLITICAL IMPORTANCE FOR DENT AND BUTZ. EC, THEREFORE, SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SEARCH FOR FORMULATION WHICH GETS AROUND THIS PROBLEM.

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5. ALTHOUGH OUR OWN PREFERENCE REMAINS OPTION FOUR OF REFTEL, WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FIND LANGUAGE WHICH ESTABLISHES PRINCIPLE THAT WORK OF ALL GROUPS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN RESOLVING DIFFERENCES BUT WHICH, IN FACT, LEAVES TO THE ACTUAL EMERGENCE OF THESE DIFFERENCES THE PROCEDURES FOR RESOLVING THEM. WE BELIEVE THAT LANGUAGE EC PROPOSED

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22 AND WHICH CONTAINED IN GATT SECRETARIAT DRAFT COMES CLOSE TO THIS. IT READS: "WHENEVER IT APPEARS THERE ARE INCONSISTENCIES OR DIVERGENCIES BETWEEN SOLUTIONS AND APPROACHES

ENUNCIATED BY THE VARIOUS GROUPS AN ATTEMPT WOULD BE MADE AS NEEDED AND IN THE MOST APPROPRIATE WAY TO WORK THEM OUT, AND IF NECESSARY THE TNC MIGHT TAKE THE MATTER UP." EC COMMITMENT WILL HAVE TO BE STRONGER THAN "ATTEMPT", BUT THE LANGUAGE PROVIDES, IN OUR VIEW, A BASIS FOR WORKING OUT A SOLUTION.

6. US POSITION FOR OCTOBER 20 GRAINS SUB-GROUP MEETING IN GENEVA WHICH AGREED AMONG WASHINGTON AGENCIES WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, GIVES POSITIVE SIGNAL THAT US PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE ACTIVELY IN THE GRAINS SUB-GROUP ONCE THE LARGER PROCEDURAL ISSUES ARE RESOLVED. US MOREOVER IS PREPARED BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR THAT NEGOTIATION IMMEDIATELY THROUGH USE OF A NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE. THIS IS SERIOUS EFFORT BREAK THROUGH DIALOGUE OF THE DEAD IN THE GRAINS SUB-GROUP AND INCLUDES US RECOGNITION THAT ISSUE OF PRICE STABILIZATION AND MARKET STABILITY CAN BE DISCUSSED EVEN IF OUR POSITION REMAINS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO NEGOTIATING FINAL SOLUTIONS ON THIS BASIS. THIS CHANGE IN US POSITION SHOULD BE USED AS POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT WHICH IT IS NOT IN EC INTEREST TO STYMIE WITH CONTINUING PROCEDURAL IMPASSE.

7. WE HOPE ABOVE IS USEFUL FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN FRIDAY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EC. WE WOULD NOT CONSIDER IT A DISASTER IF IMPASSE CONTINUED OVER QUESTION OF "JOINT MEETINGS" BUT BELIEVE EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE RESOLVE IT NOW AS WE HAVE COME SO CLOSE TO AGREEMENT. CONFIDENTIAL

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